

The Oaks
Mattoax Vicinity
Amelia County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-157

HABS
VA
4-MATOX.V,
1-

Photographed Nov. 1931

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

THE OAKS (Residence)
Mattoax Vicinity, Amelia County, Virginia

HABS
VA-
4-MATTOX.V

Owner: Miss Lizzie Edmunds Boyd (of reconstructed house)

Date of Erection: c.1745 (Removed to Richmond 1930)

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Benjamin Harrison IV (owner)

Present Condition: Excellent. Original house.

Number of Stories: Two and basement

Materials of Construction: Brick (flemish bond), Frame

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: "The Oaks" was originally situated on property owned by Benjamin Harrison IV, father of the builder of Lower Brandon. The house remained in the possession of the Harrison family until 1839, when Donald Harrison sold it to Samuel Jones. (WPA of Va. Historical Inventory).

The great interest of the house lies in its fine wood-work, both exterior and interior, and its hand-hewn clapboards of virgin timber which have never been painted. The interior woodwork shows the Gothic training of craftsmen attempting the new and largely misunderstood Renaissance forms.

The house is the original almost throughout. Kitchen wing on rear added 1930.

During the period of the Harrison ownership, the house had several distinguished visitors, and the last Harrison carried on a boys' school, where many well known men were educated.

Author: Regina Radley

Approved: _____